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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 2004, at 12 noon.

## Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LARRY E. CRAIG, a Senator from the State of Idaho.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

As we begin another day, most gracious God, help us to see that we never escape Your love and care. Forgive us for duties unperformed and for promptings disobeyed. Make us worthy of Your goodness. Thank You for guiding us and for blessing our land. May we trust Your plan for our lives.

Bless our Senators. Remind them that they do not live by their own strength, but that You sustain them. Lord, empower each of us to reflect upon the things that are true, just, pure, lovely, good, and honest, as You keep us with Your constant care. May we strive less for success and more for faithfulness. We pray this in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LARRY E. CRAIG led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant Journal clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 27, 2004.

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LARRY E. CRAIG, a Senator from the State of Idaho, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. CRAIG thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will resume consideration of the gun manufacturers liability bill. We have made real progress over the course of the week. The managers are here to discuss the legislation and other Senators are expected to come to the floor for further debate over the course of the day.

There will be no rollcall votes today. Therefore, the next vote will occur on Monday. As to the timing of that vote on Monday, I will have more to announce over the course of the day after consultation with the bill managers and the Democratic leader.

Pursuant to the agreement that was reached on Wednesday, we will finish this bill on Tuesday. I thank everyone for their assistance in reaching that consent agreement. I commend the bill managers for their efforts during the negotiations.

### HIGHWAY REAUTHORIZATION

We have a very important outstanding issue before we finish our business this week. As Members know, the current highway authorization expires this weekend. Thus, it is imperative that we pass an extension of the authorization before we conclude our work today. I have talked to Members on both sides of the aisle, as well as to our House counterparts, as to how best to achieve this temporary extension.

Yesterday the House passed a 2-month extension, and they have adjourned for the week. Regardless of what Senators think about the long-term solution for this legislation—legislation which we debated—we have an issue that we must settle today in terms of the extension. The House, again, passed a 2-month extension. They sent that to us and they have adjourned.

The real issue is that we absolutely must extend the current law to keep people working until we find some agreement. We will need to address this over the next several minutes because of the sense of urgency, the significance of not passing this highway extension today, this week. That is because beginning Monday, 3 days from now, no funds will be available to pay

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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